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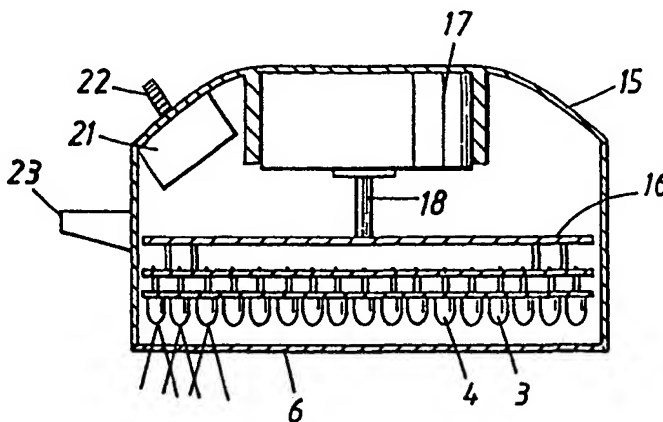
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(54) Title: MEANS FOR EXTERNAL MEDICAL TREATMENT BY MEANS OF LIGHT

(57) Abstract

Apparatus for external medical treatment with the aid of light, said apparatus comprising a light emitting device (1) which is intended to be held against or in the close proximity of a patient's body, and means (8, 9, 10) for driving the light emitting device, wherein said light emitting device includes light emitting diodes or corresponding elements adapted to emit monochromatic light, wherein the drive means (8, 9, 10) is adapted to control the light emitting device (1) to emit one or more types of monochromatic light over one or ore more predetermined time periods and to pulsate said emitted light in accordance with a predetermined pulse frequency or a series of pulse frequency over said time periods, and wherein said light emitting device (1) includes a casing (15) and a plate (16) that carries said light emitting diodes. The inventive apparatus is characterised by an electric motor (17) which is fixedly mounted in relation to said casing (15) and which is connected to said plate (16) via a drive shaft (18), whereby the plate (16) with the light emitting diodes (3, 4) is adapted to perform a rotary movement.



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MEANS FOR EXTERNAL MEDICAL TREATMENT BY MEANS OF LIGHT

The present invention relates to an apparatus for external medical treatment with the aid of light, more specifically
5 with the aid of light which palliates and/or cures different states of diseases.

Swedish Patent Specification No. 502 784 teaches for example an apparatus for external medical treatment with the aid of
10 light that includes a light emitting device which is intended to be held against or close to the body of an individual, and drive means for the light emitting device, which light emitting device includes light emitting diodes or
corresponding elements which is intended to emit infrared
15 light. According to the aforesaid patent specification, the means for driving the light emitting device is adapted to control said device to emit infrared light in a first stage over a first predetermined time period and then to emit visible light in a second stage over a second predetermined
20 time period, wherein said drive means is adapted to pulsate the infrared light and the visible light in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies.

It is also known to emit other types of monochromatic light
25 for treating different states of diseases.

It has also been found that very good results can be obtained when treating a patient with solely one or more types of monochromatic light and with light other than infrared light,
30 such as visible light of different colours emitted in accordance with a given pulse frequency.

It has been found that an apparatus of the aforesaid kind can be used very successfully for treating many different states

of diseases and injuries, for instance sport sustained injuries, stretched muscles, muscular pain, joint pain, headaches, various inflammatory conditions, various skin complaints, such as acne, back pains, etc., provided that the
5 light is emitted in a certain way. In this regard, treatment with light has a favourable influence on injury healing processes and will palliate and/or cure various diseases.

There is thus an understanding that treatment with certain
10 light that is emitted in certain frequency series will have a significantly greater effect in shortening the time taken to cure or palliate a disease.

One problem with devices of this kind known hitherto is that
15 the person administering the treatment is required to oscillate the light emitting device whilst holding the device against or in the close proximity of that region of the patient's body to be treated. The reason for this is because the light emitting diodes disposed at the bottom of the light
20 emitting device have a given geometric extension and are of different kinds, and hence two mutually adjacent light emitting diodes of mutually the same kind will be spaced at a certain distance apart. It is therefore necessary to move the
25 light emitting device forwards and backwards over the area to be treated, in order to ensure that the whole of said area will be irradiated uniformly to the best possible extent.

Because treatment of this kind will usually take from two to ten minutes to carry out, frequent administration of the
30 treatment administered may be very onerous to the person concerned.

This problem is solved by the present invention.

Thus, the present invention relates to an apparatus which is intended for external medical treatment with the aid of light and which includes a light emitting device that is intended to lie against or be held in the close proximity of the patient's body, and drive means for the light emitting device, wherein the light emitting device includes light emitting diodes or corresponding elements which are adapted to emit monochromatic light, wherein the means that drives said device is adapted to control the light emitting device to emit one or more types of monochromatic light over one or more predetermined time periods and to pulsate said emitted light in accordance with a predetermined pulse frequency or series of pulse frequencies over said time periods, and wherein the light emitting device includes a casing and a light-emitting-diode supporting plate, said apparatus being characterised by an electric motor which is fixed in relation to said casing and connected to said plate via a drive shaft, whereby the plate carrying the light emitting diodes performs a rotary movement.

20

The invention will now be described in more detail partly with reference to an exemplifying embodiment thereof shown on the accompanying drawings, in which

- Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an apparatus of the aforesaid kind;
- Figure 2 is a side view of a light emitting device;
- Figure 3 shows an inventive light emitting device from beneath; and
- Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of the inventive light emitting device.

30

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate generally an apparatus for external medical treatment with the aid of light, said apparatus including a light emitting device 1 which is

intended to be held against or in the close proximity of the patient's body. The light emitting device is shown from one side in Figure 2 and from beneath in Figure 1. This device 1 includes a casing 5 which houses a transparent plate 6.
5 Located beneath the plate 6 is a surface 2 on which a plurality of light emitting diodes 3, 4 or corresponding elements are mounted.

The light emitting diodes thus emit light through the plate 6
10 when energised, i.e. when supplied with current through a cable 7.

When the device is being used, the casing 5 is held so that the plate 6 will lie against the relevant part of the
15 patient's body.

The apparatus also includes drive means for the light emitting device 1. The drive means is adapted to control the light emitting device 1 to emit different monochromatic light
20 of different wavelengths over different predetermined time periods, and to pulsate the light emitted in accordance with a predetermined pulse frequency or series of pulse frequencies over said time periods.

25 The light emitting device 1 may include light emitting diodes 3 adapted for the emission of infrared light. These diodes are shown with solid circles in Figure 1. Visible light can be emitted with the aid of other light emitting diodes 4. These diodes are illustrated with empty circles in Figure 1.
30 The infrared light diodes 3 will preferably be semiconductors of the GaAs-type (Gallium Arsenide). The diodes 4 that emit visible light will also preferably be of the GaAs-type.

The drive means includes a computer 8 which controls drive circuits 9, 10 to which signals for driving the light emitting diodes are sent from the computer via conductor 7.

5 The computer and the drive circuits are of a suitable known kind. The drive means or computer has connected thereto a keyboard 13 by means of which the operator can key-in data for causing the drive means to activate the light emitting device in a desired manner. The device will conveniently also
10 include a display 14 for displaying the settings entered through the keyboard. This display may be the computer screen.

The light emitting device 1 includes light emitting diodes 4
15 which are adapted to emit essentially monochromatic visible light in one of the colours violet, blue, yellow, orange, red or green, and also infrared light and other invisible wavelengths.

20 The nature of the light used will depend on the disease or the type of injury to be treated.

A large part of the above description of the drawings is also found in the aforementioned patent specification.

25

According to the present invention, the light emitting device 1 includes a casing 15 and a plate 16 that carries the light emitting diodes 3, 4.

30 In accordance with the present invention the apparatus includes an electric motor 17 that is fixedly mounted relative to the casing 15 and which is connected to said plate 16 via a drive shaft 18, whereby the plate 16 carrying

the light emitting diodes 3, 4 will perform a rotary movement relative to the casing 15 when the motor is running.

5 The various light emitting diodes will therefore be moved forwards over the area of the body to be treated and will provide totally uniform irradiation of said area without the person administering the treatment needing to move the apparatus forwards and backwards over said area.

10 According to one preferred embodiment of the invention, the light emitting diodes are mounted on said plate 16 around concentric circles relative to the drive shaft 18, as illustrated in Figure 3, where each dot 19 denotes the location of a light emitting diode. The diodes disposed
15 around a circle on the plate may either be of one and the same kind, or diodes of one and the same kind may be placed radially outwards from the centre 20 of the plate.

20 According to one alternative embodiment, the light emitting diodes are mounted on the plate 16 around a helical line in relation to the drive shaft 18, i.e. from the centre of the plate and radially out towards the plate periphery.

25 According to one preferred embodiment, the plate 16 is rotated at a speed of about 1 to 200 r.p.m. The motor 17 is preferably a stepping motor. The motor may also be constructed for rotation in both directions.

30 According to another preferred embodiment, the electric motor 17 is a variable speed motor. To this end, an appropriate known control circuit 21 may be fitted in the casing 15. An outwardly projecting knob 22 may be provided for finger adjustment of the motor speed.

In Figure 4, the reference 23 identifies an input for an electric cable for driving the motor and the light emitting diodes. The control circuit may be included in said drive means 8, 9, 10. In this case, the motor may be activated via
5 the cable, therewith obviating the need for a separate control circuit 21 in the light emitting device 1. The motor speed may be keyed-in on the key pad 13.

It will be obvious that the present invention solves the
10 problem mentioned in the introduction.

The invention has been described above with reference to certain embodiments thereof.

15 It will, however, be understood that the present invention is not restricted to these embodiments but that variations can be made within the scope of the accompanying Claims.

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for external medical treatment with the aid of light, said apparatus comprising a light emitting device (1) which is intended to be held against or in the close proximity of a patient's body, and means (8, 9, 10) for driving the light emitting device, wherein said light emitting device includes light emitting diodes or corresponding elements adapted to emit monochromatic light, wherein the drive means (8, 9, 10) is adapted to control the light emitting device (1) to emit one or more types of monochromatic light over one or more predetermined time periods and to pulsate said emitted light in accordance with a predetermined pulse frequency or a series of pulse frequency over said time periods; and wherein said light emitting device (1) includes a casing (15) and a plate (16) that carries said light emitting diodes, characterised by an electric motor (17) which is fixedly mounted in relation to said casing (15) and which is connected to said plate (16) via a drive shaft (18), whereby the plate (16) with the light emitting diodes (3, 4) is adapted to perform a rotary movement.
2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterised in that the light emitting diodes are mounted on said plate (16) around circles that are concentric with the drive shaft (18).
3. Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterised in that the light emitting diodes are mounted on said plate (16) around a helical line relative to the drive shaft (18).

4. Apparatus according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the drive device (17) is driven at a speed of about 1 to 200 r.p.m.
- 5 5. Apparatus according to Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, characterised in that the electric motor (17) is a variable speed motor.

Fig. 1

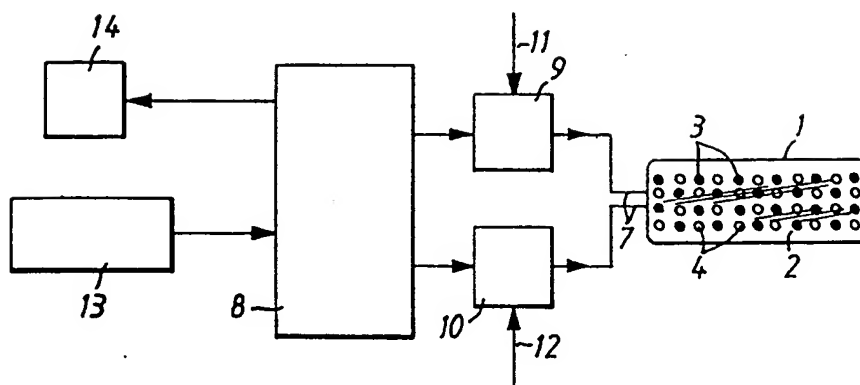


Fig. 2

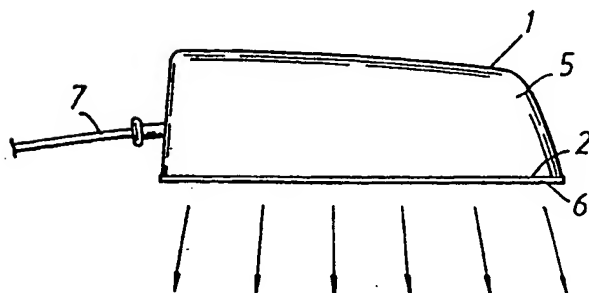


Fig. 3

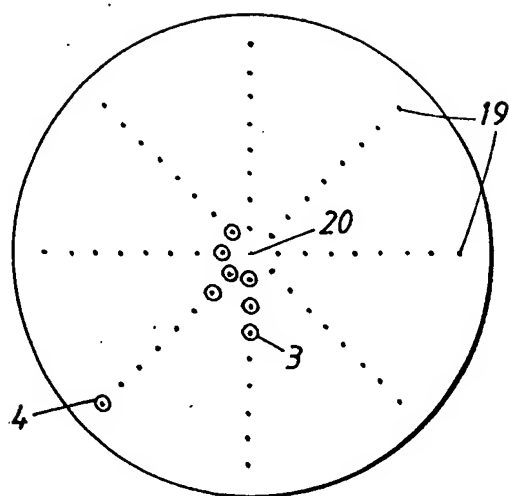
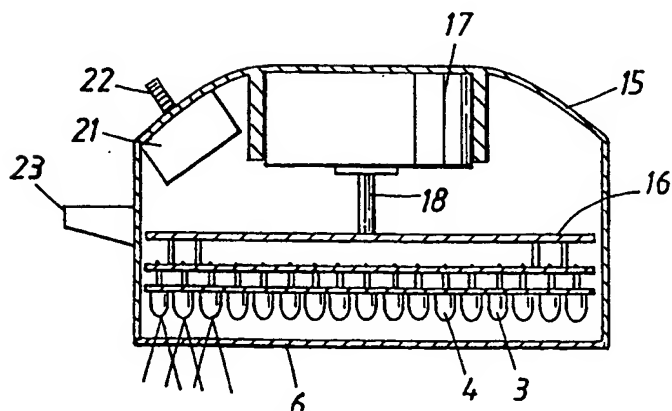


Fig. 4



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 00/00107

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61N 5/01, A61N 5/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SE 502784 C2 (BIOLIGHT PATENT HOLDING AB), 15 January 1996 (15.01.96), abstract --	1-5
A	FR 2731357 A1 (STE FRANCAISE DES TECHNOLOGIES ROBOTIQUES SOCIETE A RESPONSABILITE LIMITEE), 13 Sept 1996 (13.09.96), see the whole document --	1-5
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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